

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A Weekly Journal devoted to the Interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

Fourth Year.
VOL. IV, No. 8.

OTTAWA, THURSDAY, 21st FEBRUARY, 1889.

\$1.50 per annum in advance
Single Copies Five Cents.

CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

Is this other case hopeless.
A Canadian Invention.
General Laurie scores.
Prospective Challenge Shooting.
COMMON SENSE MUSKETRY TRAINING.
THE NORTHWEST MOUNTED POLICE.
The Annual Report.
DOMINION RIFLE ASSOCIATION.
Annual Business Meeting.

REGIMENTAL NEWS.

CORRESPONDENCE.
The Challenge Considered.—*A. Doubling Thomas.*
A Comprehensive Challenge Issued.—*G. M. Donnelly.*
The Milk in the Coconut.—*Foresight.*
The Valise Equipment.—*Buff.*
Regimental Bug Bears.—*Inquisitors.*
U. S. ARMY RIFLE PRACTICE.

Topics of the Week.

Is it not rather odd that while the council of the Dominion Rifle Association in their annual report express the hope that next year there may be representation from the Imperial forces at Halifax, not one word is said about the absence year by year of representation from the Canadian permanent corps?

We congratulate Captain Cooper of the 12th, upon the completion of his new military and sporting magazine rifle, at perfecting which he has for a good while been working. From the description given, as printed elsewhere, it appears to be a very serviceable weapon, quite up to modern ideas, and we hope that a practical test may realize the expectations formed of its utility.

General Laurie struck the right note when at the business meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association he told the members, or such of them as are militiamen, that if they wanted to secure money for expenditure on the force they should see to it that their representatives in parliament backed up the few military members who seem disposed to press the needs of the militia upon the attention of the House. This is something we have time and again urged in these columns, as the only effective way of advancing the claims of the militia to a larger share of the public expenditure. Apropos of General Middleton's suggestion that less money should be spent on the Dominion Rifle Association in order that there might be more for the rank and file of the force, it is just a question whether, were the rifle associations crippled in their work, the discouragement might not result in such a loss of activity amongst the shooting men—the backbone of the force—that there would be scarce any rank and file kept together.

The Fenelon Falls New Year's scores have made quite a stir in shooting circles, as will be realized by a glance at our correspondence columns this week. It is to be hoped that out of all the challenges given, there may yet be some matches fired. In connection with Mr. Donnelly's letter, we would suggest that the stake named be in some other form than money—money, if desired, to cover the shooting expenses, but not, to ever so small an extent, swell the purses of the winners. Money prizes for regular competitions are quite in order, shooting being too costly to be generally indulged in without this offset to the expense involved, but we think that for friendly competitions to decide individual or team supremacy the stake should be different. The amounts mentioned by Mr. Donnelly would really only about cover the expense involved, and it would be better to put it that way. The regimental challenge is a first rate idea, and might well be taken up in this or a modified form.

Common Sense Musketry Training.

Gen. Schofield has signalized his coming into command of the U.S. Army by a revision of the regulations for rifle practice. The new regulation appears elsewhere in this issue. The rifle practice of the regulars was getting into a perfunctory stage, where the filling of reports with figures was of more importance in the minds of many officers than the creation of self-confident individual marksmen from the boys in blue. The aim has been to make the course of practice such that the soldier should know as much as possible of the science of rifle shooting and pretty much all of the art connected with accurate hitting. Then turned loose on his own resources, with an enemy in front and an unknown distance to fire over, he would first of all know his arm and in the next place would know how to use it.

Instead of an annual round of practice, the new system gives something akin to a three years' course in marksmanship, so that a man makes a gradual increase in result through greater exertion and exercise of skill until he has become as proficient as any reasonable system could demand. Another point in the new rules is that each arm of the service will use its service arm, and cavalry men will shoot with carbines, as they would be required to do in actual warfare, and not with the rifle as now, for the mere purpose, seemingly, of giving them the practice of some sort and keeping up the department or division.

Revolver shooting, too, will come in for a share of consideration which has hitherto been denied. In all the new regulations care has been taken not to cut off the spur of competition. Rivalry will go on as before for places on the several teams, and even more so, for now there will be carbine as well as rifle teams.

The Northwest Mounted Police.

Accustomed to this appellation of our unique organization for the maintenance of law and order in the yet undeveloped territories of Northwestern Canada, one is not apt to realize the fact that to all intents and purposes this splendid body is an essentially military organization, and in appearance, drill and general efficiency, and the mental and physical standard of its members, probably second to no body of cavalry in the world.

The annual report just laid before Parliament by Sir John Macdonald, under whose immediate control the force comes, is a volume of upwards of two hundred pages replete with valuable and interesting information concerning the vast country under the charge of the Police, and concerning the doings of that body itself.

Commissioner Herchmer with just pride refers to his command as "the finest body of men in the country." He says:

"The recruits we have obtained this year are generally all that the most fastidious commanding officer could desire. I am deluged with applications from all parts, even the old country and the United States, for admission to our ranks. A very large proportion are farmers' sons, and I still prefer this class to all others."